

IN HONOR OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN NORTH CAROLINA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Monday, May 16, 2016*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the brave men and women who faithfully serve in North Carolina's 8th District as law enforcement officers.

In 1962, Congress established National Police Week to pay our respects to officers who died in the line of duty, as well as those who continue to serve. This is a week for all of us to join together and show support for these heroes in blue.

It is because of their tireless—and sometimes unnoticed—work that we remain safe in our homes. Their commitment to our community deserves our gratitude and appreciation, and their service is an example to all of us.

As Representative of North Carolina's eighth district, I'm committed to making sure our law enforcement officers have the tools needed to do their jobs. Just last week, the House passed five bills supporting our law enforcement community, including legislation to protect our police forces' access to bulletproof vests and enable them to carry their firearms when off-duty.

Mr. Speaker, these brave men and women continue to serve our communities year after year, and it's important to offer them our sincere gratitude. I ask my fellow Americans, to join me in reflecting on the sacrifice of our fallen officers, honoring those who are currently serving, and saying a big thank you to these heroes and their families.

### THE AGENT ORANGE RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2016

### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Monday, May 16, 2016*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in effort to heal the post-conflict, human cost of war by caring for the children of our Vietnam veterans living with Spina Bifida resulting from Agent Orange exposure.

Spina Bifida, which literally means "split spine," is a condition in which a baby's spinal column fails to close properly during pregnancy. Typically, an adult with Spina Bifida may suffer from nerve damage, paralysis, and difficulty completing ordinary, day-to-day tasks, and generally, surgery must be performed within 24 hours of the child's birth to minimize the risk of further damage due to infection, and to preserve any remaining function in the spinal cord. In many cases, those suffering from Spina Bifida require costly surgeries and extensive medical care because of potential paralysis resulting from damage to the spinal cord. Thankfully, due to medical advances, most children born with Spina Bifida live well into their adulthood.

The Department of Veterans Affairs presumes a link between Vietnam-era veterans exposed to herbicides such as Agent Orange, and the incidences of Spina Bifida in their biological children.

The Agent Orange Benefits Act (Public Law 104-204), which became law in 1996, established a benefits package for the children of Vietnam veterans as a result of exposure of one or both biological parents to herbicide during active duty in the Vietnam war. These benefits include lifetime health care services for Spina Bifida and any disability associated with Spina Bifida, a monthly monetary allowance, and VA vocational training and rehabilitation service. The Act authorized the VA to provide such benefits effective October 1, 1997, but not earlier than the date of the VA's receipt of an individual's claim for benefits. Regrettably however, this legislation did not tackle the already incurred medical costs directly correlated to Spina Bifida.

According to the VA, there are approximately 1,200 affected children of Vietnam-era veterans receiving compensation since enactment of the Agent Orange Benefits Act. While these children became eligible for benefits in 1997, these veterans and their families have been left with the cost of years of medical care necessary to treat a child's condition since birth that was directly attributable to the veteran's wartime service.

The Agent Orange Reconciliation Act of 2016 would make the benefits for children of Vietnam-era veterans born with and currently suffering from Spina Bifida effective beginning at birth. As a result, this bill would provide a one-time retroactive monetary payment to the families enduring this condition to compensate for treatment of the symptoms of Spina Bifida from birth until enactment of the Agent Orange Benefits Act.

Let us provide the benefits for which we are responsible with this important legislation. Our provision of benefits to the children of Vietnam veterans living suffering from Spina Bifida from their birth not only honors the service of these veterans but also recognizes the harmful and continued effects of Agent Orange Exposure in later generations.

### FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW YORK OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES HONOREE LIST

### HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Monday, May 16, 2016*

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to nineteen exemplary young men and women who have chosen to serve their country in various branches of the Armed Forces of the United States. These courageous individuals will be dedicating themselves to the cause of protecting the security and welfare of their fellow citizens. I admire their strong sense of patriotism, as well as their desire to protect our values and make certain we remain the great nation we are today. Each of the following students has my deepest appreciation for their service to this country. These students will be honored by Our Community Salutes, a local community group, on May 19, 2016 at the Our Community Salutes Brookhaven Town Enlistee Recognition Ceremony at Sunset Harbor in Patchogue, NY.

Of the nineteen from my district, three have joined the U.S. Army; their names are the following: Jacob Bernocco of Patchogue-Medford

High School; Janneth Guambana of Center Moriches High School; and Alexis Wallace of William Floyd High School.

Twelve have joined the U.S. Marines; their names are the following: Scott Amato of William Floyd High School; Deny Amaya of Center Moriches High School; Tyler Baudier of William Floyd High School; Alexander Cruz-Perez of William Floyd High School; Dion Kennedy of Center Moriches High School; William Ladoletta of William Floyd High School; Jonas Marrello of Center Moriches High School; Camron McLeod of Longwood High School; Michael Murphy of William Floyd High School; Shaun O'Mara of Patchogue-Medford High School; Caleb Richters of Longwood High School; and Terrell Sinclair of William Floyd High School.

One has joined the U.S. Navy; his name is Adam Erkan of Bellport High School.

One has joined the U.S. Air Force; her name is Jilian McCabe of Patchogue-Medford High School.

One has joined the U.S. Coast Guard; his name is James Giarraputo of Center Moriches High School.

One has joined the Air National Guard; his name is Jakob Klaus of Center Moriches High School.

Mr. Speaker, we should be extremely grateful to each and every one of these nineteen individuals. Their call to duty cannot be underscored or admired enough and it is my distinct honor and privilege to represent them and their families in the First Congressional District of New York. I wish them the best of luck in their respective branches and in all of their future endeavors.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Monday, May 16, 2016*

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on May 12, 2016, and May 13, 2016. If I were present, I would have voted on the following:

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Roll no. 186—H.R. 5046—On agreeing to the Lynch amendment: YEA.

Roll no. 187—H.R. 5046—On passage: YEA.

Roll no. 188—H.R. 1818—On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended: YEA.

Roll no. 189—H.R. 4586—On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended: YEA.

Friday, May 13, 2016

Roll no. 190—H. Res. 725—On ordering the previous question: NAY.

Roll no. 191—H. Res. 725—On agreeing to the resolution: NAY.

Roll no. 192—On approving the Journal: YEA.

Roll no. 193—S. 524—On passage: YEA.

### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference.